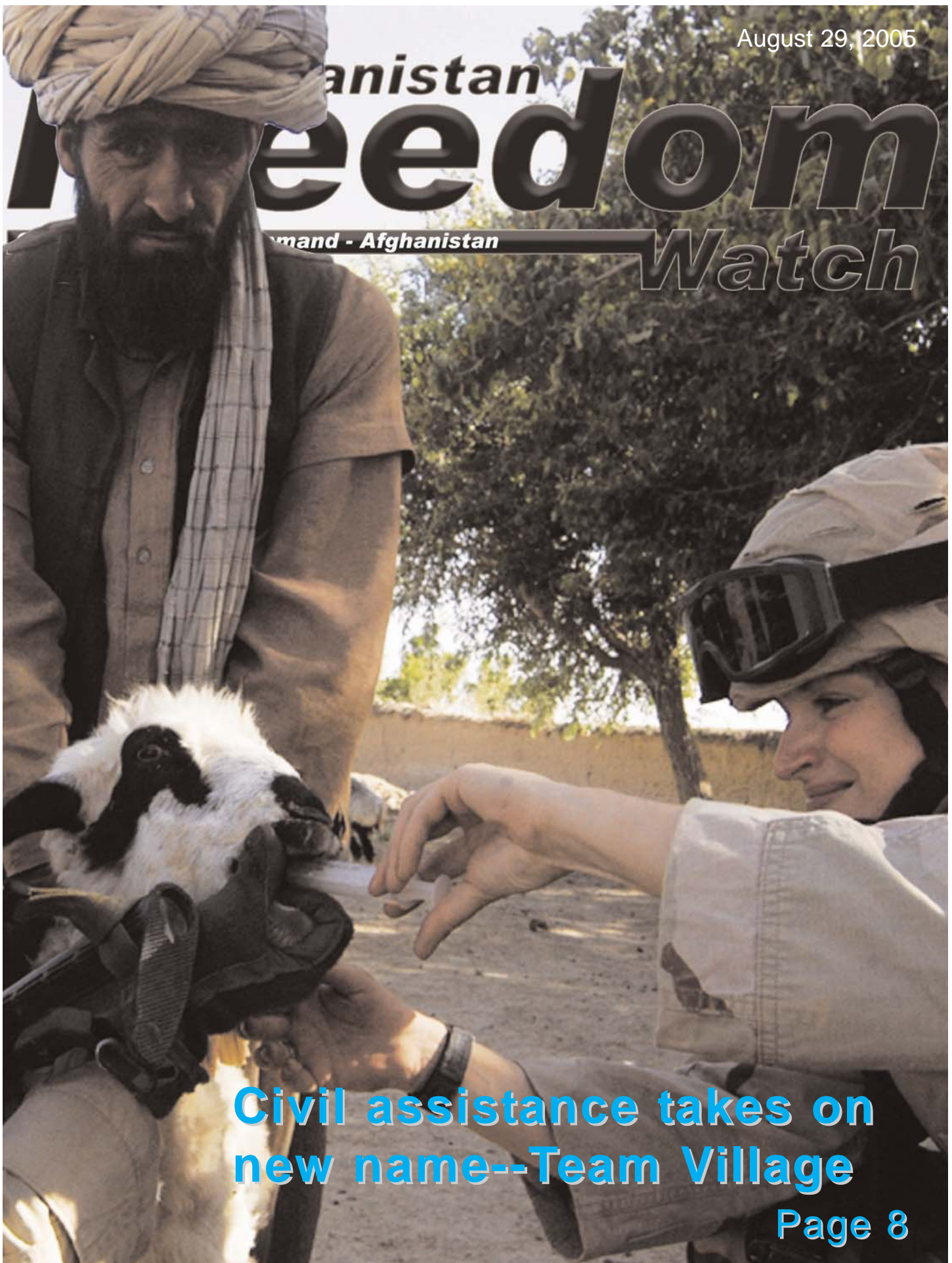


August 29, 2005



# Afghanistan Freedom Watch

Command - Afghanistan

**Civil assistance takes on  
new name--Team Village**

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Photo by Army Spc. Harold Fields



**Soldiers from A Company, 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment conduct a mission during Operation Fury Blitz in Mangritae, Afghanistan.**

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## **Afghanistan** **Freedom** Combined Forces Command - Afghanistan **Watch**

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**(Cover)** Army Capt. Stephanie Mueller treats a sheep for worms as part of Team Village. (Photo by Army Pfc. Jon Arguello)



Photo by Army Pfc. Vincent Fusco

Army 2nd Lt. Chane' R. Jackson, 2nd Platoon leader, A Company, 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, talks with village elders during a civil affairs assessment in Paktika Province July 30.

# Civil affairs assessments seek to improve quality of life

By Army Pfc. Vincent Fusco  
20th Public Affairs Detachment

**PAKTIKA PROVINCE, Afghanistan** – Soldiers from 2nd Platoon, A Company, 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment assisted with civil affairs assessments in Paktika Province July 30.

The assessments determine what resources are available and needed in each village, such as schools, wells, clinics and employment opportunities.

"I was helping to put together a format to see what villagers have," said Army Cpl. Austin J. Tracey, a civil affairs specialist from Houston attached to the Civil Affairs Team, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Bn., 508th PIR. "We take those numbers to make a list of projects we'd like to do."

The assessment began at the Charabaran District Center, then made stops at the villages of Rhamat, Warkhley, Alzadeh Kalay and Jangi-Kahn Kali before ending at the Gomal District Center.

More villages would have been seen had it not been for unforeseen truck problems during the long trek through rocky terrain, said Army 2nd Lt. Chané R. Jackson, 2nd Plt. leader, who assisted Tracey in these assessments.

"Going out to Gomal is always a feat," said Jackson. "Every time you go down, you're likely to mess up a vehicle."

Since establishing a presence in the area, the people have been very receptive to the Soldiers.

Elders are eager to share their agendas in these assess-

ments.

"We're getting to the hearts and minds of people," said Jackson. "The kids have been running up to us now, rather than hiding. It's a good transition."

In the assessments, Jackson and Tracey have encouraged elders to seek support from the Job Corps of the Afghanistan Free Workers.

With coordination between the corps and the Coalition, local people are employed to refurbish buildings and roads, said Tracey.

A goal of these missions is to help facilitate the Afghan government by teaching the elders how to find and ask for assistance from their government, said Jackson.

"We try to help them understand it's their government helping out," said Jackson. "If there are any problems, the people need to address them to their people at the shura."

The one thing Tracey would like to see is schools and education standards improve significantly.

"Their education system is very poor," said Tracey.

A major objective here is to build Afghan capacity.

The best opportunities to achieve this are through job opportunities and education -- all aimed at creating self sufficiency and proficiency.

In all, civil affairs specialists like Tracey and the Soldiers of the 1-508th are reaching out to these remote areas in a dedicated effort to improve standards of living.

"Coming from doing civil affairs in Iraq, [the 1-508th] have done an outstanding job in civil affairs missions," said Tracey.





# Task Force Red Falcon, enemy forces fight during Operation Neptune

**By Army Pfc. Mike Pryor**  
82nd Airborne Division Public Affairs

**WARDAK PROVINCE, Afghanistan** - After several weeks of sizing each other up, paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division's Task Force Red Falcon and enemy forces in eastern Ghazni Province met head-on for the first time during Operation Neptune Aug. 8-12, resulting in the death of one Taliban fighter.

The operation began with a break-of-dawn raid on a village suspected of harboring enemy forces. Two companies from the 82nd's newly-arrived 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, as well as units from the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police secured the village, said Army Pfc. Chris Stroklund, D Company. They spent the next several days continually criss-crossing the isolated, desert regions of Nawa, Dila, and Gelan, conducting raids and cordon-and-searches throughout the area. The operation eventually netted two suspected Taliban ringleaders.

As the Coalition's vice tightened, enemy forces employed guerilla tactics. American convoys were hit by improvised explosive devices twice during the operation.

The first IED struck a convoy from D Company traveling along a dirt road in Nawa. The blast destroyed a Humvee and left scrap metal and pieces of equipment strewn across the road. Fortunately, the vehicle's crew was unhurt.

"I thought we had hit a huge bump. Then we went up in the air and I saw this black cloud of smoke go over my head and my (.50 caliber machinegun) came flying off. I'll never forget that," said Stroklund.

The close call brought a heightened sense of urgency to the rest of the operation. Only hours after the blast, paratroopers received informa-

tion the person who placed the IED may be in a village nearby. Wasting no time, Army Capt. Jeff Burgoyne's B Company soon had the area cordoned off. He and his men stalked through the village until they found the elder in charge.

Suspecting the elder was concealing information, Burgoyne made sure the elder understood what was at stake.

"I'm holding you responsible for the attacks because they happened in this area. You know who did it, and until we find out who they are, we can't help you," he told the man.

Burgoyne left the village with a name and a location, but the individual had already managed to slip away, he said.

The next morning the battalion finished searching the last of its objectives. By evening, the first convoys were beginning to make the trek back north to their forward operating base when the second cowardly attack occurred, he said.

The second IED attack occurred on the way to Wardak during a late-night ambush by approximately seven militants using small arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades. Paratroopers forced back the attack, killing one of the ambushers. No Coalition forces were harmed during the fight, Burgoyne said.

With the mission behind them, paratroopers who were involved said they were glad to finally engage the enemy they had been sent to Afghanistan to find.

"In my opinion, the biggest thing to come out of the operation was that it established our presence in the area. The enemy knows we're here now and they know we're here for a reason. It's kind of like the line has been drawn -- plain and simple, we're here to kill or capture the enemy," said Army 1st Lt. Ross Kinkead, the assistant battalion operations officer.

**Army Pfc. Robert Brenizer, a paratrooper with B Company, 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, pulls security while his convoy prepares to move out at the beginning of Operation Neptune Aug. 9.**



**A paratrooper with 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment pulls security while fellow paratroopers search a bike shop in a village in Dila District, Afghanistan, during Operation Neptune Aug. 9.**



Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Victoria Meyer

A ceremonial guard stands tall in front of the new military medical training center before the grand opening ceremony. The new center will consolidate the medical training for Afghan National Army combat medics, nurses, medical faculty and medical officers.

## Military medical training center opens opportunities

By Air Force Staff Sgt. Victoria Meyer  
Office of Security Cooperation-Afghanistan

**KABUL, Afghanistan** – The Afghan National Army's first military medical education center opened recently in Kabul with the help of the ANA Surgeon General's office and the Office of Security Cooperation-Afghanistan.

Located on the National Military Hospital campus here, the center will consolidate medical training for ANA combat medics, nurses, medical faculty and medical officers.

Capable of accommodating up to 500 students in 27 classrooms, the facility is also equipped to house and feed the students.

Prior to opening the new facility, medical training was conducted in various locations around Kabul such as the Kabul Military Training Center, the military hospital and the Pol-e-Charkhi garrison.

"This is a much better learning environment for the students," said U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Luis Montes, combat medic in the Medical Plans and Operations section at OSC-A's Defense Resource Sector directorate. "They have everything they need on the campus of the National Military Hospital. The students have professional instructors and will be able to receive instruction within the hospital from the physicians and nurses."

With the opening of the new education and training center, the ANA is better equipped and more prepared for its medical mission.

"We can provide the ANA the best equipment, supplies and medications, but if they are not trained to use them, it will be a wasted effort," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Jose Betancourt, former chief of the Medical Plans and Operations section.

The center originally consisted of two separate structures

that were built by the Soviets in the 1970s. The leadership of the OSC-A medical section determined it would be more cost effective to renovate the buildings instead of starting from scratch. A local construction company remodeled and refurbished the new building at a cost of almost \$500,000.

"Taking what was once a battered and beaten up building and turning it into a quality education center is a great representation of the mission and the people who will work here," said U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. John Brennan, OSC-A chief.

The first students to occupy the building are the combat medics. They will go through a six-week training course to learn the medical skills they need in a field environment.

Throughout the course, the students will learn how to perform cardio pulmonary resuscitation, administer IVs, treat battle wounds, perform field sanitation, preventive medicine and emergency medicine.

"We believe the building will enable the ANA to dramatically improve its combat medic training by co-locating the training at the hub of their medical system," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Thomas Paul, current Medical Plans and Operations chief.

In addition to the convenience of having everything they need in one building, they also have a large military hospital just steps away.

"They can work on their clinical and medical skills in the hospital, which will make them better qualified as medical professionals," Montes said.

"I look forward to this medical training facility producing well-trained and skilled medics for the Afghan National Army," Brennan said during the grand opening of the center. "It will open the door of opportunity for many of your young men and women—an opportunity to serve the people of the new Afghanistan and help rebuild this great nation."



# Baghran Valley to receive \$2.4 million for reconstruction

## Task Force Bayonet Public Affairs

**KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan** – Baghran Valley, once home to Taliban leader Mullah Omar, will receive \$2.4 million in U.S. reconstruction funds over the next six months.

The money will go toward projects in an effort to bring peace, prosperity and security to the region once known as a bastion of Taliban ideology. Projects include reconstruction of the area's most prominent Mosque, a new high school, road repair and equipping the local police force with motorcycles.

The projects were announced during a recent ground-breaking ceremony attended by a number of Afghan and U.S. officials.

During the ceremony, Provincial Reconstruction Team Commander, U.S. Army Lt. Col. Jim Hogberg said, "The people of this valley have asked for our

help and we're delivering." Hogberg was accompanied by approximately 30 members of his reconstruction team. He also congratulated the Afghan people for supporting their own peaceful future and reminded them of the importance of voting in the upcoming elections.

The provincial governor's chief of staff and numerous dignitaries from throughout the province attended the ceremony.

Afghan and U.S. officials distributed peace newspapers and free radios to the crowd.

As the provisional reconstruction team announced the projects, former Taliban leader Rais Bagharni, a participant in the government of Afghanistan's reconciliation program, announced his intent to run in September's parliamentary elections.

"Reconstruction is my jihad," Bagharni said adding that he was committed to helping the PRTs with their

reconstruction efforts in the area.

One of the area's most viable projects is the paving of a 700-meter road through the town's center which will give the people living in the local area easier access to the shopping district.

In another nearby ceremony recently, Kandahar Province Governor Assa Dullah Khalid, U.S. Army Lt. Col. Bert Ges, commander of the 3rd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, and U.S. Army Lt. Col. Robbie Ball, commander of the Kandahar Provisional Reconstruction Team, cut the ribbon on a bridge spanning the Tarnak River. The bridge cost nearly \$300,000 and took almost two years to complete. The bridge links the Baghran Valley with nearby major centers of commerce that will improve the overall economy of the area.

The projects, which will use contracted Afghan construction firms, are expected to take anywhere from three to six months to complete.

## Enduring Voices

*What MWR activity do you use the most?*



**Army Sgt. Ruben Carrizales**  
A Company, 3rd Battalion, 141 Infantry  
*"I use the computers. We don't have internet yet at Camp Cherry-Beasley."*



**Korean Sgt. Yunjin Hwang**  
100th ROK Army Support Group, Tri-Province Provincial Reconstruction Team  
*"I use the internet. I keep in touch with my friends and family back home."*



**Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Terrell Morgan**  
CJTF-76  
*"We use the pool tables. But we use most everything, but we use the pool tables the most."*



**Army Spc. Federico Villar**  
29th Support Group  
*"I use the phones the most because I can call for free."*

# Forward Operating Base Aned sees 60th re-enlistment

By Army Pfc. Vincent Fusco  
20th Public Affairs Detachment

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE ANED, Afghanistan** – A food service specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, raised his right hand and repeated the words of Battalion Commander Army Lt. Col. Timothy McGuire to become the 60th Soldier to re-enlist on Forward Operating Base Aned since the beginning of the 1-508th's tour here.

Army Spc. Leviticus P. Higgins, who already has four years in the Army, re-enlisted Aug. 4 for four more.

With a 12-month stabilization, Higgins said, he can choose to stay with his Vicenza, Italy-based unit for the duration of his time.

In addition to the lump-sum bonus of more than \$10,000 he received, a paid college education, Pathfinder, Ranger and other specialty schools are among the other spoils of a field re-enlistment, said Army Staff Sgt. Rafael A. Ortiz, the career counselor with HHC, 1st Bn., 508th PIR. Available bonuses depend upon a Soldier's job, rank and time in the Army.

"There are about eight career counselors in Afghanistan," said Ortiz. "The Army wants to grow."

The Army wants about 30,000 more Soldiers to sign up or re-enlist by the end of this year, he said.

With a quota like that, recruiters and career counselors can be hard-pressed to make those numbers. But Ortiz, who has been an infantryman for more than nine years and parachuted into Iraq as a squad leader with his unit, doesn't pay attention to the numbers. He pays attention to the Soldiers who come into his office looking for options.

"A Soldier doesn't just come in to re-enlist: they come in for career development," said Ortiz. "I help them move up the ladder as far as possible."

Higgins' choice was influenced in part by his wife, who is expecting a baby girl soon.

"When I got married, it changed my whole view of the military," said Higgins. "It was a last choice for me [when I enlisted]. I was classified to the Army's needs."

"My wife opened me up to a lot and showed me how the military's good to stay in," said Higgins. "My family has a military background, so I wanted to pursue that."

This is Higgins' second tour in Afghanistan. He is scheduled to go to the promotion board in six months.

"I wanted to [re-enlist] anyway," said Higgins. "The attitude just wasn't there for me before."



Photo by Army Pfc. Vincent Fusco

Army Spc. Liviticus Higgins and Lt. Col. Timothy McGuire shake hands and display Higgins' certificates of re-enlistment after the ceremony Aug. 4.



Photo by Army Pfc. Jon Arguello

Doctor (1st Lt. Oana Abrudan), a Romanian army dentist, prepares a young boy for a tooth extraction as her interpreter watches during a Team Village visit.

# Civil assistance takes on new name - Team Village

**By Army Pfc. Jon Arguello**  
**Task Force Bayonet Public Affairs**

**KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan** – Since arriving in Afghanistan in April, Task Force Bayonet Soldiers and their Afghan counterparts have been responsible for an unprecedented amount of military victories across their area of operation. In just a few months, they have removed any doubt the government of Afghanistan is here to stay. Victory on the battlefield, however, isn't the only place paratroopers of the 173rd Brigade (Airborne) have had success, said Army Capt. Paul Larson, a native of Boulder, Colo., and commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd

Battalion, 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment.

August 8 marked the end of a civil assistance mission that set the standard for non-kinetic success and could easily be considered a perfect example of cooperation among Coalition partners to benefit the local populous, Larson said. The village medical outreach mission, Operation Rimini, was truly a joint effort with participation by three Coalition members.

"Team Village," as the group was called, included U.S. medical, veterinary and mechanical personnel, two Romanian soldiers, one a dentist; and a security element of U.S. and Afghan National Army soldiers, as well as soldiers with varying skill sets.

The mission's goals were to increase

support for the Coalition forces and the government of Afghanistan and provide whatever services the Soldiers could to the local population in several villages across Regional Command South using their diverse training.

"Missions like this really further the cause of the Coalition and Afghan government," said Larson. "Counter-insurgency-type conflicts are won by engaging the populous and we can only do that so much by killing Taliban. I think you get better results saving a sick child or woman than you can by killing 10 Taliban."

Operation Rimini led to an astounding victory in terms of building trust between Afghans in remote parts of southern Afghanistan and Coalition



forces, he said. The mission not only increased mutual trust but raised the level of confidence the people of southern Afghanistan have in their government.

If nothing else, the sight of more than a dozen vehicles rolling along the small cramped makeshift roads through remote villages delivering important supplies and providing medical, dental and mechanical services would leave a definite impression.

"It's important to establish a trust and rapport with the average Afghan in the countryside," Larson explained. "The people in remote villages have little or no knowledge of the efforts of the Afghan government to improve and stabilize the country. So when they see this level of goodwill coming from their own authorities, along with Coalition forces, it leaves a lasting impression, and that impression will be nothing but good."

The value of that impression, however, is even more important in terms of long term success, said HHC, 2-503rd 1st Sgt. Kenneth Wolfe, HHC, 2-503rd. Not only in the sense that the people are receiving help but the fact that their own national army is involved in providing that help.

"The more we can do for the people of [Regional Command] South, the more attractive [the Coalition] is as an alternative to the Taliban," he said. "We are showing them we can really help them, as opposed to just feeding them the same old rhetoric and beating tactics the Taliban use. The lasting effects of the memories we made on this mission will provide the people with confidence in themselves and their government. It makes it very clear to them what is good and right about our mission here."

The good and right manifested itself in



**Army 1st Lt. Scott Natter (left) and Army Staff Sgt. Louguens Charles (right) work on an Afghan National Police motorcycle. The pair fixed 12 motorcycles during the mission.**

Photos by Army Pfc. Jon Arguello

several ways over the 10-day mission. More than 1,000 Afghan citizens were treated by the Coalition medical staff, including a family practitioner of C Company, 173rd Support Battalion (Airborne). Hundreds more who were bedridden or otherwise unable to reach the medical staff received medicine.

The severity of the illnesses and injuries ranged from leprosy to open-wound infections. A child was brought in who had drowned and was consequently saved by the medical team.

"He was freezing and in shock," said Army Dr. (Capt.) Jaqueline Naylor from Ocala, Fla. "His lips were blue and he was shivering. We attempted to breathe for him and start an IV."

The medical team attempted to start intravenous medication, but the child's veins were too small and the oxygen mask they had wouldn't seal around his nose and mouth. The medics worked feverishly to keep the child awake and to empty the water from his lungs.

"We warmed him up and performed chest percussions to clear his chest of water," Naylor said.

The medical team wouldn't give up. They continued to treat the child for two hours. They held him, kept him warm and persistently attempted to expel the water from his lungs.

Eventually, the 2-year-old boy had improved enough that he could be released to his father.

Once patients were checked by the doctor, they had the opportunity to have their teeth looked at by Romania's 151st Infantry Battalion's dentist. The dental team conducted 74 exams, extracted 59 teeth and distributed 455 dental hygiene kits over four days.

"The professional gratification was very high, especially being able to treat women and work with American medical colleagues," said Romanian Dr. (1st Lt.) Oana Abrudan, a Romanian army dentist. "Personally, I'm proud that I was able to help the Afghan people while representing my country. It meant a lot to me professionally and personally."

Abrudan's accompanying Romanian soldier shared her feelings.

"I'm very appreciative of the experience," said Romanian Cpl. Marius Budric, a reconnaissance paratrooper attached to the 151st. "It was a great experience to represent Romania on this mission and work side by side with other Coalition forces while contributing to the betterment of the Afghan people."

Wolfe reciprocated the Romanian's appreciation for the cooperation.

"The mission could not have been successful without our Romanian partners," he said. "I heard a saying that Romania has two friends, the Black Sea and the United States. I think they have many friends, but they went to great lengths to have at least three: the black Sea, the U.S. and the people of RC South who they helped."



**Army Pfc. Michael Yates hands out a volleyball to Afghan children during a civil assistance mission.**

# Afghan official welcomes former Haqqani sub-commander into Program Tahkim-e-Solh

**GARDEZ, Afghanistan** – Mullah Haji Jailani, a former Taliban and Haqqani sub-commander in Gardez, entered Afghanistan's Program Tahkim-e-Solh at the Gardez Provincial Governor's Building Aug. 13.

Jailani was welcomed back into Afghan society by the province's acting governor, Maj. Gen. Hai Gullsaliman Khail, and Darwish, the Minister of Information and Culture.

The PTS program provides former enemies of Afghanistan the opportunity to lay down their arms and rejoin Afghan society peacefully.

"More than 30 individuals have joined the process so far in Gardez Province," Darwish said.

"We were the only other province besides Kabul to set up a special commission just for reconciliation," he added.

He also believes the commission helped make the process faster and more effective at convincing once troublesome rebels to join in the government's process to rebuild a peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan.

"Our commission is very busy," said Khail. "We used to hold meetings for this sort of thing once a week, now we have it twice a week."

"The stabilization of this program was needed," said Khail. "(Those who join PTS) can play a big part in rebuilding Afghanistan."

Darwish hopes Jailani's efforts to recon-

cile with the Afghan government will convince others that the process is worthwhile and important.

The goal is for the majority of former Taliban, HIG and Haqqani members to take part in this opportunity and assume active roles in ending violence in Afghanistan and ensuring the country's future economic and political prosperity. (Courtesy of Combined Forces Command - Afghanistan)



Photo by German army Sgt. 1st Class Andre Borowitschka  
**Two German Weasel light tanks from International Security Assistance Forces patrol the streets of a village near Kabul.**

## AAFES Services Hours of Operation

### Bagram Air Base

<b>PX</b>	<b>Massage</b>
0230-1630	0400-1800
<b>Shoppette</b>	<b>Alterations</b>
0230-1630	0430-1430
<b>Burger King</b>	<b>Embroidery</b>
0430-1730	<b>Shop</b>
<b>Food Court</b>	0430-1430
0600-1630	<b>Gift Shops</b>
<b>Coffee Shop</b>	0430-1430
24 hours	<b>Sports Apparel</b>
<b>Barber Shop</b>	0430-1430
0430-1530	<b>Black Ops Store</b>
<b>Day Spa</b>	0430-1530
0400-1600	

### Kandahar Airfield

<b>PX</b>	<b>Day Spa</b>
0500-1700	0500-1700
<b>Burger King</b>	<b>Alterations</b>
0430-1730	0500-1700
<b>Pizza Hut</b>	<b>Embroidery</b>
0600-1800	<b>Shop</b>
<b>Subway</b>	0500-1700
0600-1430	<b>Gift Shops</b>
<b>Coffee Shop</b>	0500-1700
24hrs	<b>Sports Apparel</b>
<b>Main Barber Shop</b>	0500-1700
0500-1700	<b>Black Ops</b>
<b>Lagoon Barber</b>	<b>Store</b>
<b>Shop</b>	0500-1700
0300-1700	<b>Leather Shop</b>
	0500-1700

### TF Phoenix

<b>PX</b>
0430-1630
<b>Barber</b>
<b>Shop</b>
0330-1530
<b>Alterations</b>
0330-1630
<b>Coffee</b>
<b>Shop</b>
24 hours

### Camp Eggers

<b>PX</b>
0430-1630
<b>Barber</b>
<b>Shop</b>
0330-1530
<b>Coffee</b>
<b>Shop</b>
24 hours

**\* All times in Zulu/GMT**



# Afghan army personnel center improves services for soldiers

**By Army Sgt. Lynnette Jefferson**  
Office of Security Cooperation-  
Afghanistan Public Affairs

**KABUL , Afghanistan** – Through teamwork and commitment, the Office of Security Cooperation-Afghanistan and the Afghan National Army have raised the bar for ANA personnel services.

Every Thursday, OSC-A personnel specialists meet with their ANA counterparts to mentor them at the personnel service center at the Kabul Military Training Center, home to ANA basic training. During these sessions, OSC-A members provide guidance and support to improve the personnel process for the ANA.

"With the formation of the ANA, one thing missing was a personnel service center," said U.S. Army Master Sgt. Gregory Williams Sr., sergeant major of the Defense Resource Sector directorate at OSC-A. "The ANA needed a group of trained individuals to assist with personnel actions."

Although the PSC is still in beginning stages, Williams said he has seen marked improvements since it first started operations.

"Since we started, an average of 60 to 80 soldiers have visited the PSC every week," said Williams.

The PSC is open every Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. All personnel issues are handled on a first-come, first-served basis.

"We do not turn anyone away," Williams said. "The point of this whole operation is to stress to the ANA personnel specialists the importance of customer service and taking care of the soldier."

Williams said ANA soldiers should not have to worry about personnel issues.

"They should have it taken care of for them. When you work in personnel, it is essential that the soldier is treated well and properly. They should not have to worry about things such as ID cards or promotions. The PSC does that for them," said Williams.

KMTC has the only personnel serv-

ice center in the Afghan Army. Williams, however, expects PSCs will be in each of the ANA's five regional commands eventually.

"Ideally, we are looking for around 20 to 25 soldiers to work at each PSC," Williams said. Those soldiers would handle personnel actions, such as processing ID cards, name changes or financial concerns.

Prior to the opening of the PSC, ID cards didn't always make it to the soldiers.

"Sometimes ID cards were lost or destroyed," said Williams.

In some instances the equipment used to make the ID cards was broken, he said. Out of the first 20,000 ANA soldiers processed, many didn't have an ID card.

"When we started the PSC, there were 5,000 ANA soldiers who did not have identification cards. Now 3,800 of them have received their identification cards," he said. The PSC's goal is to issue ID cards to the remaining soldiers by the end of August.

"The U.S. Soldiers help us with the ID card process," said Afghan Army 1st Sgt. Abdul Sayed, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of KMTC personnel. "Since some of the ANA soldiers did not have ID cards, this helps."

Sayed, who has worked at the PSC for three months, said the cards print out quickly, so the soldiers can get their ID cards right away.

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Jolette Wright, an OSC-A mentor and finance liaison officer, has been working with the ANA soldiers at the PSC since its opening.

"When we first started the PSC, Afghan soldiers were coming to get ID cards without proper documentation," she said.

The mentoring sessions have paid off with vast improvements, she said.



Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Victoria Meyer

**Afghan National Army Lt. Col. Sayed Chamen stands ready as U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Jolette Wright and Latif Jafari, a computer programmer for the Afghan Ministry of Defense, prepare his identification card photo.**

"Ninety percent of the soldiers come with the documentation they need," Wright said.

Afghan Lt. Col. Sayed Chamen, from the directorate of communication material coding at the Ministry of Defense, recently received his first ID card after a long wait.

"I am glad that I got my ANA ID card today," he said. "The process was very quick. Before this, the process was very long. I could not imagine receiving my card this quickly."

Chamen's comments were the highlight of Wright's day. She believes her job at the PSC is complete when there is an Afghan soldier with an ID card in hand.

"Some of the soldiers have gone months without ID cards. Now that we can print the cards on the spot, it makes me feel really good to put a smile on someone's face," Wright said. "We want to ensure the PSC can provide exceptional customer service. That is our end goal."

# Marines and Sailors endure heat wave in Afghanistan

**By Marine Sgt. Robert Storm**  
2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment  
Public Affairs

## JALALABAD, Afghanistan –

Frequently, Marines must adapt and overcome, and for Marines and Sailors from 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment from Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, adapting to the weather in Afghanistan is proving to be a challenge they are overcoming.

"My girlfriend in Phoenix tried to write me and complain about the heat. I just laughed and told her not to even go there," said Marine Lance Cpl. Jeremy T. Hooee, an infantryman from Zuni, N.M. "We have to drink a case of water every time we go out on patrol just to keep from passing out. Your head pounds and your cammies are completely soaked like you took a shower in them, but you just tough it out because that's the job we do."

Jalalabad is experiencing a heat wave in an area already notorious for its heat. With average temperatures during July exceeding 115 degrees, the Marines and Sailors suffer through each day.

To make matters worse, when the Marines and Sailors go out on patrol, they must wear a flak vest with two heavy plates, Kevlar helmet, and ammo pouches along with other necessary gear like first aid kits. The resulting load is usually about 60 pounds and must be

worn throughout the day and night while outside of the forward operating base.

"When we go outside the wire and have to put on all our gear, it's like putting on a sweater in the middle of summer to go jogging," said Marine Lance Cpl. Garfield, an infantryman from Columbus, Ga. "The patrols aren't physically challenging to your muscles; it's just the heat that kills you."

More than one Marine has complained



Photo by Marine Sgt. Robert Storm Staff

**Marine Sgt. Carlos J. Ortega, platoon commander, from New York. During a normal patrol, Marines carry an average of 60 pounds gear, weapons and ammunition. Many of these patrols take place during the hottest times of the day and with an average temperature of more than 100 degrees. Marines must be careful or suffer heat injuries.**

of burning his tongue on the water left out in the sun. The water for the shower is solar heated, and Marines and sailors find that during the middle of the day when many would like to shower for some relief from the heat, finding that relief is impossible because the water is so hot it hurts.

"The showers can't be used during the day; it's crazy because you'll actually be sweating in the shower it is so hot," said Hooee.

Medical personnel for the battalion report very few heat casualties, and most of the cases are from the beginning of the deployment. The outside temperature is monitored and rated by a system of flag colors. Every hour of every day is recorded so that battalion leaders can adjust workloads to prevent heat casualties.

"We haven't had a day in Afghanistan that hasn't been black flag, referring to the highest level accorded for daytime temperatures. The leadership in this battalion -- officers, staff non-commissioned officers, and non-commissioned officers are doing a good job of making sure the Marines and Sailors aren't overworked and stay hydrated," said Chief Petty Officer Joseph R. Burds, senior medical department representative from El Paso, Texas. "We would know if they weren't."

## Dari/Pashtu phrase of the week

Dari/Pashtu phrase of the week:  
**Please sit down.**

**Dari**

Lotfan banishenead.  
(lot-fawn ba-ne-she-need).

**Pashtu**

Mahra bani wakri kakhainai  
(Ma-ra bonnie wok-ri ka-ki-ni).

## Afghan cultural tidbit

**Religious holidays in Afghanistan are celebrated according to the lunar calendar while secular holidays are celebrated based on the solar calendar. On holidays, Afghans usually visit their family and friends where they prepare lavish meals and have special prayers with the extended family.**

(<http://www.afghan-network.net/Culture/attractions.html>)



# Brothers serve together in 82nd Airborne Division

**By Army Pfc. Mike Pryor**  
82nd Airborne Division Public Affairs

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, AFGHANISTAN** – When Army Sgt. 1st Class Cliff Burgoyne decided to re-enlist in the Army, he needed an officer from his unit to swear him in.

Luckily, his brother was available.

Cliff, 39, from Slidell, La., is currently deployed to Afghanistan as the scout platoon sergeant with 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division. His brother, Army Capt. Jeffrey T. Burgoyne, 34, is the commander of the battalion's B Company.

Jeffrey reenlisted his brother in front of a crowd of paratroopers during a short ceremony outside the battalion's tents here July 28.

"It made it very special for me. It was a real honor," Cliff said.

The Burgoyne brothers served together in the Louisiana National Guard during the late 1980's before following separate paths through the regular Army. It took almost 15 years for them to be reunited in the same unit.

Cliff said he pulled some strings to be reassigned with his brother. He joined the battalion in February of this year. Being in the same unit together has been great, he said, even though he now has to take orders from his

younger brother.

"Everybody is part of the same team. I know my place," he said.

Not everyone in the battalion does. The brothers said they are sometimes mistaken for each other.

"People come up to talk to me and then after a few sentences they realize I'm not the person they're looking for," the older Burgoyne brother. "I just go along with the conversation until they figure it out."

Because of the way the battalion is organized, Cliff's scout platoon could potentially fall under his brother's direct command during this deployment. Jeffrey said he worries about putting his brother in harm's way if that happens, but there's no one he trusts more to get the job done.

"If I had to send him on a mission, I'd know things would be getting done right," he said.

Like most Soldiers, the Burgoyne brothers have family back home who worry. Being together should make it easier on them, Cliff said.

"Mom's always asking, 'Where's Jeff



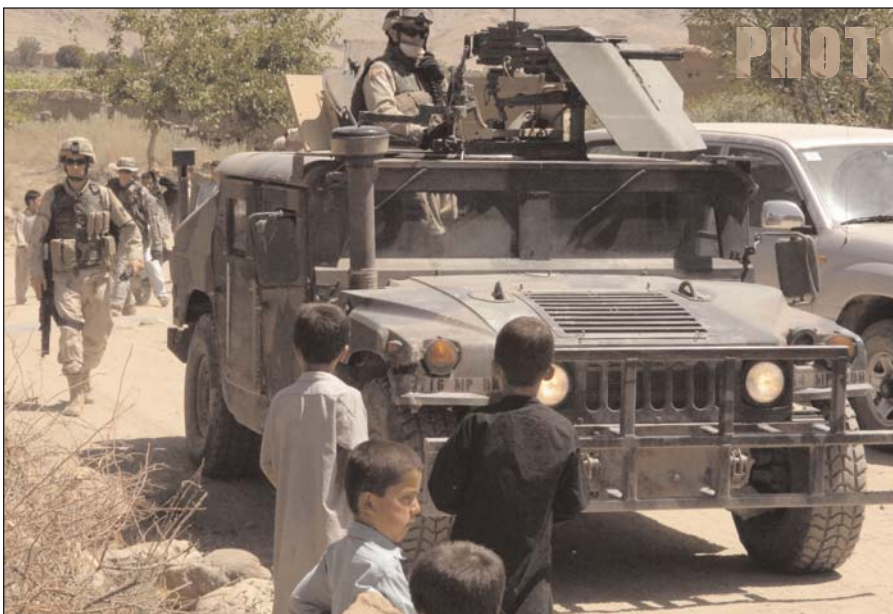
Photo by Army Pfc. Mike Pryor

**Capt. Jeffrey T. Burgoyne, commander, Company B, 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, shakes hands with his brother, Sgt. 1st Class Cliff Burgoyne, a platoon sergeant in the same battalion, after re-enlisting him during a ceremony at Bagram Airfield, July 28.**

going? What's Cliff doing?" Cliff said. Now at least she'll know that wherever they are, they're together, he said.

The Burgoyne brothers said they are looking forward to working together on this deployment. They would like to remain in the same unit for as long as possible, they said, but if the Army has other plans for them, they're alright with that too. They'll still be able to see each other during their annual duck hunting trip back in Louisiana.

"Just tell all the people in Slidell not to kill all the ducks and fish 'til we get home," Cliff said.



## PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

**Soldiers from Task Force Eagle arrive in the village of Qual-A-Atakhom, Afghanistan. Task Force Eagle conducted Medical Civilian Assistance Procedures in the village on Aug. 16.**

*Photo by Army Spc. Joshua Balog  
Combat Camera*

If you have high-quality photos of service members supporting the Coalition mission or enjoying well-deserved off-duty time, please e-mail them to [freedomwatch@baf.afgn.army.mil](mailto:freedomwatch@baf.afgn.army.mil). Please include full identification and caption information, including who is in the photo and what action is taking place.

## Taliban leader killed in fighting

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Todd Oliver  
CJTF-76 Public Affairs

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan** - Three U.S. service members were wounded in heavy fighting that killed Taliban leader Qari Amadullah near the city of Wazikwa in Eastern Afghanistan Aug. 9.

Five other enemy combatants were also killed.

Amadullah was believed to have commanded up to 50 Taliban fighters in the region and was thought to be in possession of a number of weapon systems to include rockets and rocket propelled grenades.

"Killing this individual will significantly disrupt Taliban operations in the region," said Army Brig. Gen. James G.

Champion, Combined Joint Task Force-76 deputy commanding general (operations). "We hope that with his death, Amadullah's forces are able to find the courage to break with the Taliban organization and begin to reconcile with the government of Afghanistan in their efforts to rebuild this war torn nation."

Amadullah was killed during a firefight with Afghan National Army soldiers and Paratroopers assigned to the 1st battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

Afghan and U.S. forces were conducting operations in the area designed to kill or capture Taliban leaders.

## General discusses operations, security

By Army Sgt. Douglas DeMaio  
20th Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan** - The operational commander for Coalition forces in Afghanistan said military operations and civil assistance leading up to Afghanistan National Assembly elections are setting conditions for a secure and successful elections process.

"The government of Afghanistan and the U.S., Coalition and Afghan security forces, along with the international community, are offering these people peace and prosperity," said Army Maj. Gen. Jason K. Kamiya. "The Taliban offer them continued fighting, death and violence."

The difference is clear.

From building roads to helping Afghan forces capture suspected terrorists, each mission combines to form a comprehensive effort to better serve Afghans leading toward elections.

Commerce is improving. Afghans are finding employment. And they are building a better quality of life, he said.

For these reasons, nearly 12 million Afghans have registered to vote and continually improve the foundations established since the defeat of the Taliban regime in late 2001, he said.

"Afghanistan is successfully undergoing a revolutionary change, and Afghan citizens will prove once again they want a free Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on Sept. 18," Kamiya said. "Last year, the people of Afghanistan established a constitution and elected a president.

"On September 18th, they will take yet another step forward in electing a national assembly to give them a voice in their government."

## Have a ball!



Photo by Army Pfc. Jon Arguello

Army Cpl. Jessica Stephenson, from the Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command, gives a ball to a youngster during a civil assistance mission to southern Afghanistan villages.

## Afghans turn in cache to U.S. forces

By 1st Sgt. Stephaie Hika  
117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**LASHKAR GAH, Afghanistan** - Members of the Helmand Province Governor Security Task Force turned in a large cache of ammunition to the Lashkar Gah Provincial Reconstruction Team Aug. 14.

The cache consisted of 172 rockets, 123 mortar rounds and six tank rounds.

The Afghan Task Force members recovered the cache in a village northeast of Lashkar Gah, Army Capt. Fidel Arvelo, officer in charge of the PRT's explosive ordnance control team.

This is the first time Governor Security Forces in the Helmand Province have turned in a cache to Coalition forces.

It is also the largest the PRT has received in the past three months.

"Munitions such as these are dangerous and unstable and pose a great threat to the people living and working near them," said Arvelo. "We applaud the efforts of security forces that are doing the right thing by turning these dangerous items to us for safe destruction."

Coalition forces reported a 25 percent increase in the number of caches recovered by Afghans and Afghan forces as compared to this time last year.



# Canadians assume authority

By Sgt. 1st Class Todd Oliver  
CJTF-76 Public Affairs

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan** - The Canadian military assumed responsibility of one of Afghanistan's major provisional reconstruction teams located in Kandahar during a ceremony held there on 16 Aug.

The ceremony was attended by Canadian Army Col. Steve Bowes, incoming PRT commander; U.S. Army Lt. Col. Robert Ball, outgoing PRT commander; Canadian Ambassador Christopher Alexander; Kandahar Governor Assadullah; Col. Kevin Owen, 173rd Airborne brigade commander; Brig. Gen. Jack Sterling, Combined Joint Task Force deputy commander (support); Air Vice Marshal Paul Luker, Combined Forces Command - Afghanistan deputy commanding general; and Brig. Gen. Richard Tabor, International Security Assistance Force-Afghanistan.

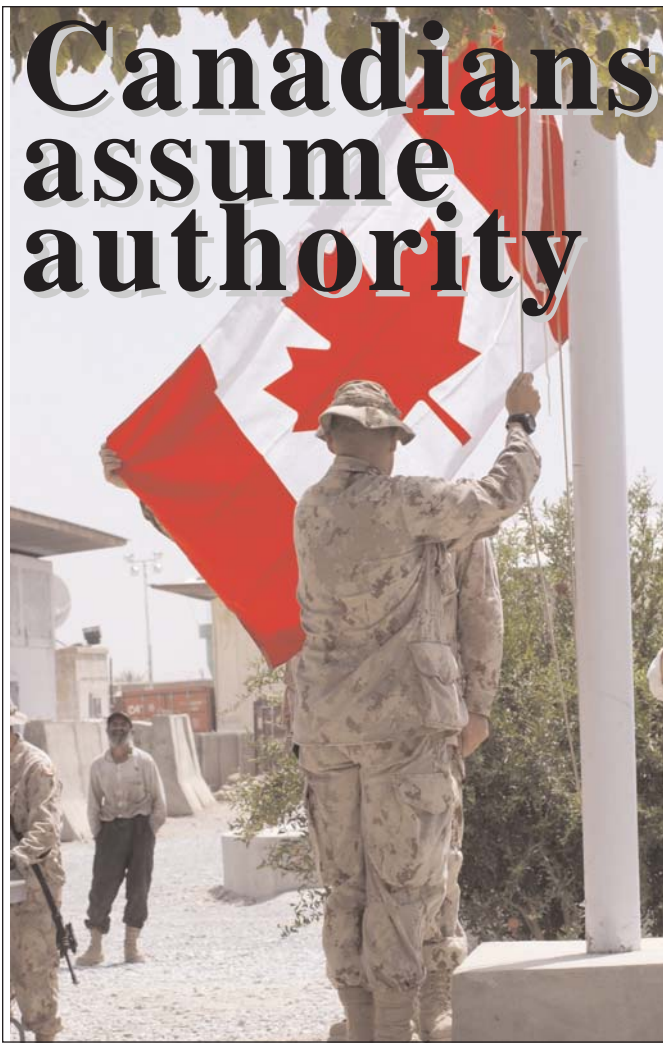
"Reconstruction, along with security, is the top priority for coalition forces here in Afghanistan," said Sterling. "We welcome our brothers in arms from Canada. The Canadian forces are a world-class, fully capable, professional force and it will be a privilege to work alongside them as they extend the work began here in Kandahar by the U.S. PRT."

"This transfer of authority marks the beginning of a significant transition to what will ultimately be a NATO-led effort," he said. "The U.S. remains committed to doing our part in the strengthening of democracy here in the Kandahar province and throughout Afghanistan."

More than 1,500 Canadians are currently serving in the Global War on Terrorism in Afghanistan. Of that number, more than 250 will serve at the Kandahar PRT.

**Canadian forces raise their nation's flag over the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team camp during the transfer of authority ceremony Aug. 16.**

Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Marina Evans



## Coalition supply ANP with motorcycles

By Army Staff Sgt. Jacob Caldwell  
Task Force Bayonet Public Affairs

**KANDAHAR, Afghanistan** - Members of Task Force Gun Devil supplied 30 new motorcycles July 27 at Kandahar Airfield.

Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment and the 492nd Civil Affairs Battalion handed over 30 Chinese made motorcycles to the Kandahar Provincial Police Department in an effort to better enable the local police to provide security for the upcoming parliamentary elections, said to Sgt. 1st Class Derek Smith, TF Gun Devil Civil Affairs noncommissioned officer.

Drawing from the experience of past efforts, careful planning and consideration went into the hand-off of these motorcycles, said Smith.

"We are working through the central government of Kandahar with the new police chief," said Smith. "He will have oversight of the distribution of the motorcycles to the various districts."

"In the past, we gave the vehicles to the

individual districts. The problem with that was that the central government was not able to track what districts had what vehicles and they were not able to supply the appropriate parts and money for fuel," explained Smith. "The districts kept going to the coalition forces instead of the central government for supplies. Distributing the motorcycles this way reinforces the central government."

But on a more practical note, something as simple as being able to quickly repair a motorcycle and put it back into service was also considered.

This problem should be alleviated because these bikes were purchased from a local distributor and also assembled by a local Kandahar mechanic, said Smith.

In addition to the 30 motorcycles provided, there are plans to purchase and distribute 10 trucks in the near future, said Smith.



Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Jacob Caldwell

**Yar Muhammad, a Kandahar Police Officer, observes motorcycles given to the ANP July 27 at Kandahar Airfield. The motorcycles were donated to the Kandahar Provincial Police Department by Task Force Gun Devil.**

# *Freedom Watch*

August 29, 2005

**The sinews of war are five--**

**Men, money, material, maintenance  
and morale.**

**Ernest Hemingway**